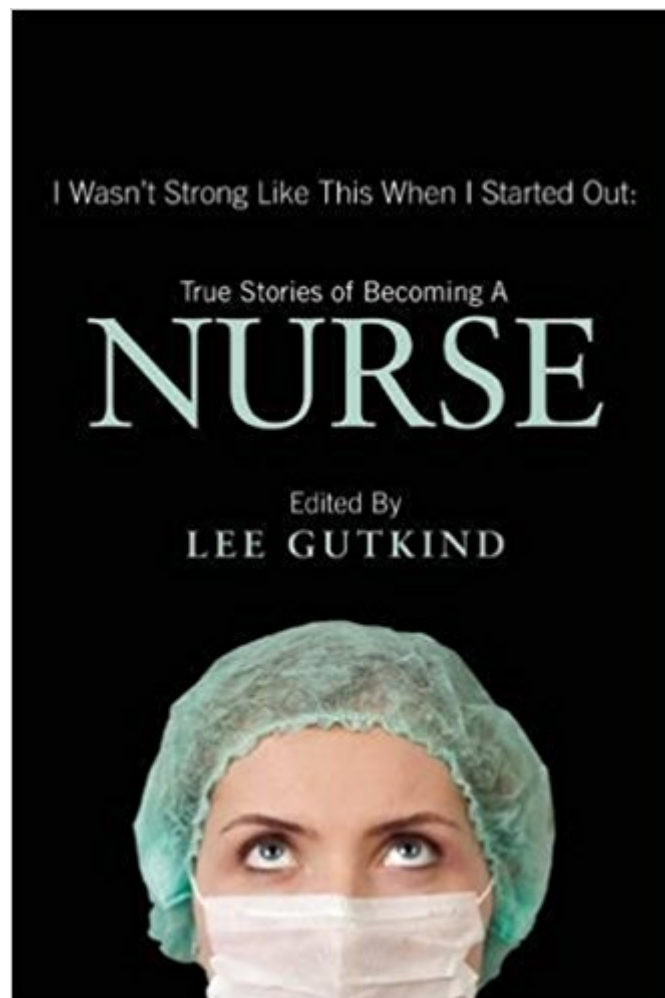




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# I Wasn't Strong Like This When I Started Out: True Stories Of Becoming A Nurse



## Synopsis

This collection of true narratives reflects the dynamism and diversity of nurses, who provide the first vital line of patient care. Here, nurses remember their first "sticks," first births, and first deaths, and reflect on what gets them through long, demanding shifts, and keeps them in the profession. The stories reveal many voices from nurses at different stages of their careers: One nurse-in-training longs to be trusted with more "important" procedures, while another questions her ability to care for nursing home residents. An efficient young emergency room nurse finds his life and career irrevocably changed by a car accident. A nurse practitioner wonders whether she has violated professional boundaries in her care for a homeless man with AIDS, and a home care case manager is the sole attendee at a funeral for one of her patients. What connects these stories is the passion and strength of the writers, who struggle against burnout and bureaucracy to serve their patients with skill, empathy, and strength.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Expect to be moved by this anthology of tales from the front line, written by veteran nurses and nurses-in-training. One contributor describes his experiences as a nursing student at the beginning of the AIDS epidemic, when the disease was called gay-related immune-deficiency syndrome, particularly his nurse's intuition, that is, knowing when a patient is going to die. There was a stigma to the work I was doing, he writes. But I eventually got to a point where I wasn't afraid to say, when someone asked what I did, "I work with persons who are dying of AIDS." Several of

the essayists lace their emotional tales with humor. A University of Pennsylvania nursing student records her friend's reaction to her job: So you actually cleaned up poop? A woman who survived Hodgkin's lymphoma as a teen becomes an oncology nurse. And a nurse recounts watching a person die for the first time. Essayists note that they're not supposed to get too close to patients, but they do it anyway. It's easy to love these empathetic people, and their beautifully written stories. --Karen Springen

Booklist Review March 15, 2013 Expect to be moved by this anthology of tales from the front line, written by veteran nurses and nurses-in-training. One contributor describes her experiences as a nursing student at the beginning of the AIDS epidemic, when the disease was called gay-related immune-deficiency syndrome, particularly her "nurse's intuition," that is, knowing when a patient is going to die. "There was a stigma to the work I was doing," she writes. "But I eventually got to a point where I wasn't afraid to say, when someone asked what I did, I work with persons who are dying of AIDS." Several of the essayists lace their emotional tales with humor. A University of Pennsylvania nursing student records her friend's reaction to her job: "So you actually cleaned up poop?" A woman who survived Hodgkin's lymphoma as a teen becomes an oncology nurse. And a male nurse recounts watching a person die for the first time. Essayists note that they're not supposed to get "too close" to patients, but they do it anyway. It's easy to love these empathetic people, and their beautifully written stories. #151; Karen Springen

As a fairly new nurse I am so glad I read this book at this exact moment in my life and career. It made me feel empowered and helped me to reflect on the bad, the good and why these things together are so rewarding. It really takes all of that stuff to inspire me to continue coming back. These were simple and mostly everyday stories that brought happiness and evoking my passion further.

As a pre nursing student, reading these stories made me set on the career path I want to follow! So many stories of wonderful passionate nurses!

As a new grad NICU nurse having worked for a year now, this book gave me encouragement and allowed me to relate to stories that many people wouldn't understand since they aren't nurses. Definitely recommend!

Good, but I thought the stories would be more meaningful but they are more like a day in the life. I'm a nurse.

Great gift for the nurse wife.

5 stars for nurses in first year out of school, high school students interested in nursing, For a seasoned nurse with many years expert, most of the chapters were engaging and well written. For my demographic, lost interest, some authors seemed very naive.

Still not one reading it but so far so good! Good stories that we can relate to

Great book! I've been debating on whether I want to pursue a career in nursing and this book gave me a bit of insight as to what actually goes on in the life of a nurse. While some stories have the same theme, how the nurses approached it were different and gives you different information to mull over.

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